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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07
EUR-12 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01
USIE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 OIC-02 L-03 H-01 /117 W
----------091225Z 000173 /40
O 091149Z JUN 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8079
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4594

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO, PLAB, XF
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE: ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE

REF: GENEVA 4561

1. INFORMAL TALKS WENT ON DURING JUNE 8 TO CONSIDER DRAFT LETTER WHICH DIRECTOR GENERAL (DG) PROPOSES TO SEND TO PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFRENCE (ILC). TUNISIAN LABOR MINISTER ENNACEUR ("ON BEHALF OF ARAB GROUP") REQUESTED AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS, ALTHOUGH DG INFORMED USREP HOROWITZ THAT LATE IN DAY TALKS SEEMED TO BE GOING BETTER. DG INDICATED TO ARABS THAT LETTER WAS HIS OWN AND ARABS (OR FOR THAT MATTER US) NOT BEING ASKED TO ENDORSE IT, AND THAT HE PALNNED TO GO AHEAD WITH SENDING IT TO ILC PRESIDENT. AFTER HE MADE SOME CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO ARAB SUGGESTIONS, HE HAD IMPRESSION THEIR POSITION WAS BECOMING AMBIGUOUS RATHER THAN AS "TOUGH" AS THEY HAD BEEN EARLIER IN DAY. WE WILL SEND LATTER "FINAL" TEXT SEPTEL; TEXT OF ITS PRECESSOR IS OBSOLETE AND HAS BEEN POUCHED.

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2. DG SAW TRIPARTITE USDEL IN EARLY EVENING AND DESCRIBED CHANGES, WHICH WERE GENERALLY NOT OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE WITH ONE EXCEPTION THIS FOCUSSED AROUND SENTENCES IN WHICH HE DESCRIBED HIS STATUTORY OBLIGATION TO REPORT TO ILC EACH YEAR ON STATUS OF RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN PREVIOUS FIVE YEAR PERIOD. HE HAD PROPOSED WORDING ALONG THESE LINES: "IN THIS

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CONNECTION I WILL OF COURSE REPORT ON STEPS TAKEN TO
GIVE EFFECT TO THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED IN 1974" (TEXT
POUCHED). TRIPARTITE USDEL POINTED OUT OUR OBJECTION
TO ANY WORDING WHICH IMPLIED DG WOULD BE TAKING ACTION
ON 1974 RESOLUTION, AND DG INDICATED HE WOULD CONSIDER
OUR POSITION. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR PHONED USREP MORNING
OF JUNE 9 TO SAY HE ALSO HAD OBJECTED TO THIS WORDING.
DG CHANGED WORDING TO SAY "SUCH A REPORT WILL COVER
THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED IN 1974..." (SEE REFTEL).
ACCORDING TO CHEF DU CABINET BERNARD FORTIN, DG SIGNED
THE LETTER MORNING OF JUNE 9, ON REASONING HE COULD GO
NO FURTHER, AND SENT LETTER TO PRESIDENT OF ILC TO ARABS AND
OTHER REGIONAL GOVERNMENT GROUPS AND TO WORKER AND
EMPLOYER GROUPS. ILC PRESIDENT NOW HAS BEFORE HIM DG'S
LETTER AND ARAB RESOLUTION. IF ARABS ACCEPT FORMER AND WITH-
DRAW LATTER AND OTHER GROUPS GO ALONG, DG'S LETTER COULD
BE INTRODUCED INTO PLENARY AFTERNOON OF JUNE 9. SCENARIO
WOULD BE THAT ONE OR MORE ARAB SPEAKERS COMMENT ON
LETTER, AND THEN ISSUE WOULD BE DROPPED.

3. WE UNDERSTAND ARAB REACTION TO FINAL TEXT OF DG'S
LETTER WAS STRONG AND THEY ARE NOW MEETING WITH DG
AND ILC PRESIDENT TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS. THUS OUT-
COME OF DG'S INITIATIVE IS FAR FROM CERTAIN. ILC
PRESIDENT'S CONSULTATIONS WITH REGIONAL GOVERNMENT
GROUP REPS HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO 1445 HOURS JUNE 9.

4. COMMENT: MODERATE ARABS TRYING HARD TO RESOLVE
SITUATION TO AVOID CONFRONTATION BUT HAVE INDICATED
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THEY ARE UNDER SOME PRESSURE FROM RADICALS AND THAT
THEY MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PLAY MODERATING ROLE
MUCH LONGER. JORDANIAN CROWN PRINCE HAS INDICATED
WILLINGNESS TO INCORPORATE INTO HIS SPEECH TO PLENARY
JUNE 10 ANY REMARKS WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD BE HELPFUL.
USREP WILL SUGGEST (AT 5 P.M. JUNE 9 MEETING) THAT
PRINCE REFER TO IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOWING PROCEDURE
OBJECTIVES, AND PRIORITIES OF ILO. SORENSON

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